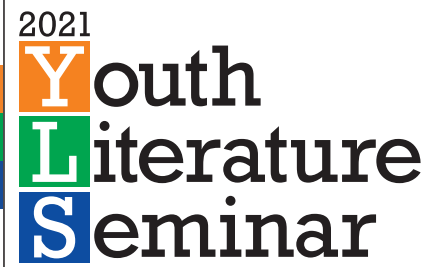


2021 Program Guide



Friday, November 12, 2021
8:30 am–3:30 pm | Zoom
Free and Open to the Public

kpl.gov/youth-literature-seminar

Celebrating a New Beginning

We're here, we've made it. After a year of seemingly nonstop painful experiences, there finally seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel. A light that is beckoning us toward a new beginning, a fresh start where we can take stock and celebrate life to the fullest.

This 44th Annual *Youth Literature Seminar* will focus on healing and navigating the changes we've all experienced, while also concentrating on tools we can use to help each other, ourselves, and foster change. Join us and our many speakers for a day of community and celebration as we move forward.

This event is free and open to the public. Please visit the [2021 Youth Literature Seminar](https://kpl.gov/youth-literature-seminar) webpage to learn more about our feature speakers, breakout sessions, schedule and to register to receive the link to attend.

Featured Authors



Betsy Bird is the Collection Development Manager of Evanston Public Library, and the former Youth Materials Specialist of New York Public Library. She blogs frequently at the School Library Journal site A Fuse #8 Production, and reviews for Kirkus and the New York Times on occasion. Betsy hosts two podcasts, Story Seeds, which pairs kids and authors together to write stories, and the very funny Fuse 8 n' Kate where she and her sister debate the relative merits of classic picture books.

betsybirdbooks.com



Meg Medina is a Newbery award-winning and New York Times best-selling author who writes picture books, as well as middle grade and young adult fiction. Her works have been called "heartbreaking," "lyrical" and "must haves for every collection."

megmedina.com



Gene Luen Yang is the bestselling writer and artist behind *American Born Chinese*, *Boxers & Saints*, the *Avatar: the Last Airbender* comics, and many other iconic works. His latest graphic novel, *Dragon Hoops*, was released in March 2020. Gene began drawing comics in the fifth grade. Gene will discuss the importance of STEM education and the artificial divisions put up between "left brain" and "right brain" activities as well as his experience as an author and creator of comics.

geneyang.com

Breakout Sessions

Kids Count in Michigan: Using Data for Policy Change

Parker James, Michigan League for Public Policy

For nearly 30 years, Kids Count has been the go-to source for data on child well-being. Join Kids Count in Michigan to learn about the findings from the *2021 Kids Count in Michigan Data Book* and how you can use data to improve the lives of kids, youth and their families. Focusing on racial equity and a multi-generational approach, participants will review trends and opportunities in areas such as economic security, health, safety and education. Youth perspectives will be highlighted. Join this session and get connected to the resources to help you advocate for kids and youth!

All About Awards

Ed Spicer

Did you know that folks elected to the 2023 Newbery Committee are elected in the Spring of 2021? Ed Spicer was elected to the 2023 Newbery Committee in early spring 2021 and his official term began on July 1st, 2021. Ed will remain on the 2023 Newbery Committee until after the annual convention of the ALA in 2023 (and after the 2025 Newbery team is elected). Ed will go onto the Newbery with LOTS of committee experience. He was a member of the 2005 Printz Committee for the best teen books. He served on the 2009 Caldecott Committee. He has served on the Margaret Edwards committee for the teen author whose books have stood the test of time in the teen world. He has served on the Morris Committee for that author of the best teen book that is also that author's debut in the publishing world. He has served on the Notable Children's Book Committee and the Best Books for Young Adults committee. Ed was on the Schneider Family Book Awards Committee for those books that portray the disability experience in a positive manner for three years, chairing it in his last year. He was a judge on the Lee Bennett Hopkins Children's Poetry Award Committee. Join Ed as he explains the various differences and similarities of book committees, shares how the books are chosen, and discusses favorite award books from his committee and others.

Using Comics in the K-12 Classroom

Dr. Gwen Athene Tarbox (she/her), Western Michigan University

Over the last decade, children's and YA comics have entered the mainstream, capturing awards, breaking sales records, and providing educators with another type of literacy upon which to focus. In this session, I draw from my recently published text, *Children's and YA Comics* (Bloomsbury, 2020) to provide you with resources and activities for your classroom or media center.

All About Editing

Nick Thomas, Senior Editor, Levine Querido

Learn from the best! Levine Querido recently won the Bologna Prize for Best Children's Publisher of the year! Senior Editor, Nick Thomas will describe a "week in the life" of an editor—submissions; negotiating; the editing process; working with other departments; cover and design process; etc. He will discuss the differences in approach to each facet at an independent publisher vs a bigger house.

Socially Conscious Reviewing: The Pitfalls and Perks of Providing Equitable Reviews in an Inequitable Age **Betsy Bird**

Join librarian and author Betsy Bird (*Long Road to the Circus*, Knopf) as she takes a deep dive into the longstanding art of reviewing children's books. Discover the ribald history of reviewers, the authors that took their words to heart, and how all that has changed in the internet era. Betsy will look at the highs and lows and offer advice on how to write both the best and the worst possible reviews.

Closing the Gap

Katy Clark and Jen Stroven, Kalamazoo Regional Educational Services Agency

How Kalamazoo County is Building a Continuum of Literacy Development from Birth to Kindergarten—Join Katy Clark and Jen Stroven in exploring the Early Literacy Essentials and the Talking is Teaching campaign in Kalamazoo County. Discover how these two initiatives are working together to change the literacy gap trajectory of young children, and how libraries can join this effort.

Breakout Sessions *continued*

Introduction to Trauma Informed Care

Casey Coker, Bronson Healthcare

Our earliest relationships can have a big impact on our relationships later in life. The phrase “trauma informed care” is a huge buzzword in the helping communities and organizations. In this presentation, we will discuss what trauma looks like for some people and how it can impact some people across the life-span.

Overcoming Pandemic “Languishing”: Cindy & Lynn’s 2020/2021 Comfort Reads

Cindy Dobrez and Lynn Rutan, Bookends Blog

Like many readers we’ve talked with and heard from online, reading during the pandemic was a struggle for us. We found ourselves searching for comfort books while others were baking banana bread. We offer booktalks on the books that pulled us out of our reading slump. Featuring middle and high school titles selected purely for the appeal and comfort they bring to the reader. Cindy and Lynn will focus on new books with a few adult titles and rereads that are a must when searching for comfort in reading!

YLS 2021 Program Schedule

8:30 am: Welcome Announcements

9–10 am: Opening Keynote—Meg Medina

10:15–11 am: Choose from four breakout sessions

Session 1: *Kids Count in Michigan: Using Data for Policy Change*
Parker James, Michigan League for Public Policy

Session 2: *All About Awards*
Ed Spicer

Session 3: *Using Comics in the K-12 Classroom*
Dr. Gwen Athene Tarbox, Western Michigan University

Session 4: *All About Editing*
Nick Thomas, Senior Editor, Levine Querido

11:15 am–12:15 pm: Midday Keynote—Betsy Bird

12:15–12:45 pm: Lunch Break

12:45–1:30 pm: Choose from four breakout sessions

Session 5: *Socially Conscious Reviewing: The Pitfalls and Perks of Providing Equitable Reviews in an Inequitable Age*
Betsy Bird

Session 6: *Closing the Gap*
Katy Clark and Jen Stroven, Kalamazoo Regional Educational Services Agency

Session 7: *Introduction to Trauma Informed Care*
Casey Coker, Bronson Healthcare

Session 8: *Overcoming Pandemic “Languishing”: Cindy & Lynn’s 2020/2021 Comfort Reads*
Cindy Dobrez and Lynn Rutan, Bookends Blog

1:45–2:45 pm: Closing Keynote—Gene Luen Yang

2:45–3 pm: Wrap-up Announcements



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